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MSD INNOVATIVE PROJECT DELIVERY SAVES MONEY, SUPPORTS URBAN RENEWAL

Cincinnati, OH – Urban renewal, local job creation, combined sewer overflow reduction, and cost savings are being achieved through an innovative project delivery approach the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) has led the way in successfully adopting.

When the Ohio Construction Reform was enacted in 2011 by the State legislature, MSD Director Tony Parrott was among the first to see the benefits it offered the community through a method of building in which both the design and construction are contracted and controlled from one source. Called Design-Build, the approach can save utilities time and money by creating one single point of accountability.

MSD demonstrated success of the Design-Build approach with a storm sewer separation project being finalized for the Oakley Station urban renewal effort. Oakley Station is a 74-acre mixed-use development projected to be home to 2,000 local jobs as well as Class A office space, retail/restaurant, and residential. The storm sewer separation project was completed for nearly \$3.8 million less than the \$12.6 million estimated for traditional project delivery, while also meeting the aggressive 21-month schedule necessary to meet MSD mandates for combined sewer overflow reduction and Oakley Station's construction timeframe.

Using Design-Build, MSD supported urban renewal while also addressing federal Consent Decree requirements for reducing combined sewer overflows. The Oakley Station storm sewer separation project is part of the Phase 1 Consent Decree program, and the cost savings achieved on the project contribute to the overall Phase 1 program successfully remaining within budget. In fact, current forecasts are for MSD to spend nearly \$50 million less than the \$1.14 billion Wet Weather Improvement Plan (WWIP) conceptual estimate for Phase 1 through 2018.

MSD is not only leading the state in use of Design-Build alternate project delivery but is also recognized nationally. MSD Director Parrott recently served as the opening keynote speaker during the 2014 Design-Build for Water/Wastewater Conference co-hosted by the American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation, and attended by nearly 800 decision-makers from the architectural, engineering, construction and acquisition communities.

"As stewards of ratepayer dollars, utilities face many challenges and competing objectives such as politics, increasing rates and declining consumption," said Parrott. "We must begin to shift our thinking from 'because we have always done it this way' to 'what can we do differently to overcome the challenges of today.'

The Oakley Station storm sewer separation project included procurement, design, construction and system commissioning. Additional savings of \$234,000 resulted from continuous value engineering.

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